

Minutes of the May 17, 2016 Hingham Harbor Development Committee Meeting

Attending: HHDC: W. Reardon, E. Morris, P. Losordo, D. Anderson, T. Coveney, E. Kachel

Bathing Beach Trustees: Ed Johnson, Chris Daly, Alan Pereault

Town Engineer: Roger Fernandes

Audience: Rosamund Conroy from Hingham Maritime Center, John Thomas, Vicki Donlan and Mark Thorell from the Hingham Recreation Center, Amy Cowan – Friends of Hingham Harbor, DanCoughlin, ADCOM liaison

7:00 PM -- Town Hall

1. Approved minutes of April 13, 2016.
2. Chair Bill Reardon discussed the approval at town meeting of the wharf study and assessment to make repairs. Although the \$175K approved will clearly not be enough to complete all of the work it is enough to get the process started into a Phase II –selecting a wharf project for detailed engineering design.
3. As requested, Eric Las from Beals and Thomas returned to present some more specific information on the wharf study. Eric discussed different sections of the town's seawalls with respect to the likelihood of and the consequences of overtopping. He continued to present Beals & Thomas's estimates of costs to repair and improve the seawalls. Eric presented the committee with a return-on-investment analysis for the different seawall sections. Roger Fernandes helped to explain the monetary benefits of the short term versus the long-term solutions. Eric explained that Beals and Thomas did not intend to make a recommendation for a Phase II selection since that decision requires town knowledgeable consideration and prioritization of the many criteria his report presented.
4. Requests for funding for the Landscape Master Plan from the Greenbush Historic Trust will be considered at the next Historical Committee meeting on June 6.
5. The committee discussed the extension of the new walkway from the bathing beach along the harbor toward Barnes Wharf. A discussion took place as to whether the path should be closer to the road or the seawall.
6. Vicki Donlan and Mark Thorell from the Hingham Recreation Center proposed the building of a playground on the Selectmen's parcel. The Rec Center intends to raise funds for construction and maintenance of the playground. The committee welcomed the idea, expressed support for it and agreed to draft a letter of support to the Selectmen.
7. With Town Meeting's April vote funds are now available for the lights on Whitney Wharf Bridge. Various dates were considered for the official opening of the Whitney Wharf Bridge.
8. Roger Fernandes updated the Committee on a likely timetable for the Route 3A construction project. The Mass. DOT Project Review Committee is expected to assign a Transportation Improvement Project (TIP) Number in June. The Town's next step would be a meeting with DCI re: completion of their survey work and preparation of 25% design materials

9. Alan Perrault reported that the Bathing Beach Trustees parking lot seawall project is nearly complete. The Beach grass along the walk way will be planted this fall. A small fence will be placed between the sand and the loam.
10. Alan also reported that they are waiting for pricing on a design proposal for the bath house/snack shack.
11. Amy Cowan, Chairman of the non-profit Friends of Hingham Harbor, requested HDC's presence at the 5th Annual 'Touch a Boat' event to be held at Town Pier on June 4. Deirdre Anderson agreed to prepare explanatory materials for our table and Eric Kachel and Chairman Reardon agreed to be at the table to respond to questions from the public.
12. The next meeting was set for June 14